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TEXT

TAGS: PTER, PINS, PREL, PINR, PA
SUBJECT: S/CT WILCOX MEETING WITH PARAGUAYAN JEWISH
COMMUNITY LEADER

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. S/CT COORDINATOR WILCOX, ACCOMPANIED BY ARA PHIL
MCLEAN AND CHARGE, MET WITH PARAGUAYAN JEWISH COMMUNITY
LEADER ENRIQUE CEGLA ON SEPTEMBER 6, DURING THE
INTERAGENCY COUNTERTERRORISM TEAM'S VISIT TO ASUNCION.
S/CT WILCOX, WHO HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING, EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT THE BOMBINGS OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND
AMIA CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ASKED WHETHER PARAGUAY'S
JEWISH COMMUNITY FELT ITSELF TO BE UNDER ANY SPECIFIC
THREAT, OFFERED TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE LOCAL
JEWISH COMMUNITY ON POTENTIAL THREATS, URGED PARAGUAYAN
JEWISH LEADERS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES
WITH GOVERNMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, AND
INVITED CEGLA TO CALL ON HIM AT S/CT SHOULD HE VISIT

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WASHINGTON IN THE FUTURE.

3. CEGLA WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR S/CT WILCOX'S INITIATIVE. HE SAID THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS ENJOYED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY AND THAT WILCOX'S VISIT REINFORCED THOSE TIES. ACCORDING TO CEGLA, PARAGUAYAN JEWS ARE APPREHENSIVE DUE TO THE ATTACKS IN BUENOS AIRES, BUT THAT THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC THREATS AGAINST THEM. HE AGREED THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SHOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. HE ALSO AGREED TO CHARGE'S SUGGESTION THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

4. COMMENT. THE WILCOX-CEGLA MEETING WAS AN IMPORTANT GESTURE BY THE U.S. TO **PARAGUAY'S** SMALL AND ISOLATED JEWISH COMMUNITY, WHICH NO DOUBT FEELS VULNERABLE IN A LAND THAT SERVED AS A HAVEN FOR FORMER **NAZIS**, AND WHICH NOW FINDS ITSELF PENETRATED BY HIZBOLLAH. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO TOUCH BASE WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ON COUNTERTERRORISM AND OTHER ISSUES. END COMMENT.
MCCULLOCH

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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